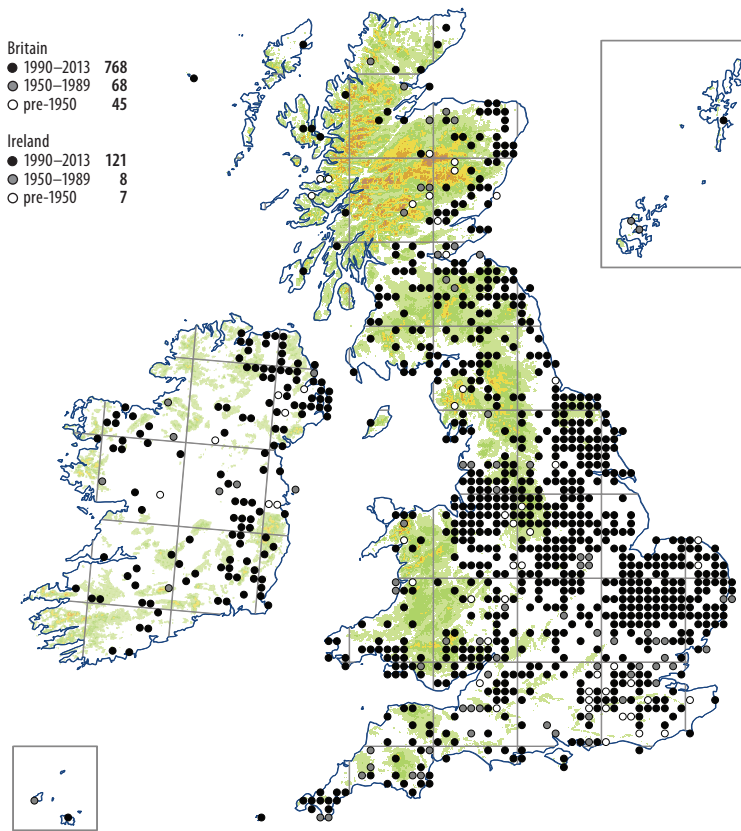


## *Marchantia polymorpha* subsp. *ruderalis*



Grows on a wide variety of nutrient-rich substrates, especially in artificial habitats but occasionally in natural situations alongside rivers and streams. Typically found as a weed of plant-pots, greenhouses, gardens, churchyards and nurseries, on shaded pavements, railway clinker, walls by water and damp wall bases elsewhere, and on burnt ground (including bonfire sites). As a troublesome weed of nurseries it is perhaps the only British hepatic to have any economic significance. This species characterises the weedy *Bryum dichotomum*–*Marchantia polymorpha* assemblage in arable fields (Preston *et al.*, 2010). Other nutrient-tolerant species such as *Bryum dichotomum*, *Funaria hygrometrica* and *Oxyrrhynchium hians* are regular associates, both on arable land and in other ruderal situations.

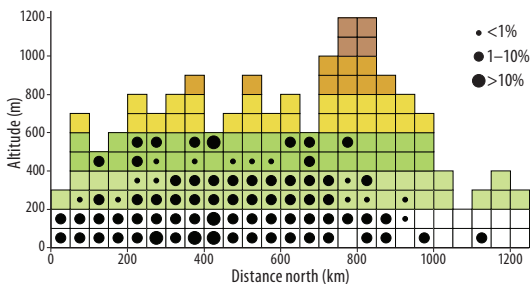
Sometimes *M. polymorpha* subsp. *ruderalis* grows on soil, or less often rock, on the banks of streams and rivers, but these

colonies are generally traceable to a synanthropic source. Altitudinal range: 0–570 m.

*Marchantia polymorpha* subsp. *ruderalis* appears to have increased in range in lowland Britain over the last 15 years, but this may be the result of confused taxonomy leading to past under-recording.

Dioicous. Carpocephala and sporophytes are frequent in at least some areas of SE England, rare elsewhere, stimulated by long day-length at fairly high temperatures and hence occurring between April and July (Duckett & Pressel, 2009b). Gemmae (in splash-cups) are almost always present.

Circumpolar Boreo-temperate. A cosmopolitan species, found throughout Europe and in all continents except Antarctica.



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